



IMAGES

Vol. 11, No. 2
Summer 1997

NEWS OF INTEREST TO THE ALUMNI OF REDEEMER COLLEGE

The power to make a difference

Why do we work where we do? Is employment purely utilitarian, or is there more to a job than a paycheck? For many Redeemer alumni, this stage of their lives is concerned with not only finding a job, but a calling-- that elusive position where your work is not just something you do, but it is integral to who you are. Yet demographers and news columnists tell us that the job market is difficult to crack, especially for young people just entering the workforce.

This issue of Images marks the debut of a column dedicated to the work experiences of alumni--how they got their jobs, how well they were prepared for employment, the changing nature of work, and the challenges and joys of their work. We invite you to contribute your own story about work. Please contact the Alumni Office to share your experiences with work and career.

BY ANGELA DEKOK (93)

In the four years since I graduated from Redeemer College, I have had the privilege to work for two Christian organizations--Redeemer College and Christian Horizons. God has allowed my employment with both of these wonderful Christian organizations to mold me into a useful tool for serving Him and others, and to open my eyes to the need for Christian establishments to make a difference for Christ. Although the mission statements of Redeemer College and Christian Horizons differ in their aim, both are founded on the same Biblical bedrock of serving God and others, and demonstrating Christian stewardship in their every word and action.

I like to view my employment experience at Redeemer College as a searching time; a time of much prayer and waiting upon the Lord, seeking His will for my career direction. God used my time at Redeemer College to make me aware of just how important a Christian university is in our society--not only to be a witness and a light to secular society, but also to be a guide to a younger generation



Angela Dekok

of Christians who would carry the light of Christ to the rest of society. It was also at Redeemer College that I learned a valuable lesson: the power of one to make a difference in the lives of others. As the Student Life Secretary, I interacted with many staff and students on a daily basis and learned to appreciate them and their God-given gifts. God used that experience to teach me that even on the most stressful days (you know, those days when you need 20 cups of coffee just to get you through the morning?) when I seemed so bogged down with work and felt I wasn't doing a thing right, that He was still working through me to bring about His love and truth to others. The fact that God

had called ordinary me to touch the lives of students and staff in a Christian university, in the job where He had placed me, was both humbling and exciting at the same time. It changed my focus from seeing the role of a Christian establishment not as an organization, but a ministry.

In the fall of 1996, I moved on to full-time employment at Christian Horizons, a Christian organization that provides service

and support to developmentally challenged individuals. (Note: it is a curious that so many Redeemer students and graduates work for Christian Horizons--it feels like Redeemer all over again!) It is at Christian Horizons that I have found my career goal and calling: to work with people with special needs. Christian Horizons, like Redeemer College, is a wonderful Christian organization and ministry that strives to model Christ's example to the community, the individuals it supports and their families, and to its staff.

While at Redeemer College, I learned the meaning of the word "steward"; at Christian Horizons, I am discovering what it really means to be a servant--both to the people I support and the great team of staff that

Continued on page 2...

Homecoming 97 scheduled

Plans are well on their way for welcoming back alumni for Homecoming 97 on Saturday, Sept. 20. Although we will be honouring especially those who graduated or left in 1987, all alumni are welcome to participate. Last year, over 45 "pioneers" and other alumni returned for a chance to get reacquainted.

The Alumni Board and the Homecoming Planning Committee are hoping for an even larger turnout this year. As many of you requested, we have brought back the Alumni Golf Tournament to start the day. There will also be lots of opportunities to just sit and mingle as well.

Please turn to page 2 to see the schedule for Homecoming 97.

IMAGES

is the newsletter of the Redeemer College Alumni Association and is published four times a year by Redeemer College, 777 Hwy. 53 E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4 (905) 648-2131. E-mail: alumnioffice@redeemer.on.ca Editor: Tim Wolfert, Layout: David Raakman. Circulation: 1,000. Address all correspondence to the Alumni Affairs Coordinator: Tim Wolfert.

REDEEMER COLLEGE LIBRARY

Redeemer College

IMAGES

PER/LH/3/.163

MAILS

JAN 27 1998

POSTE

redevine deposte

Post paye
Nbre

Homecoming schedule

...Continued from p. 1.

Please find below a tentative schedule of events. This is not written in stone --we welcome all suggestions for activities, etc... Please contact the Alumni Office if you have any ideas.

The final schedule and ticket information will be mailed in August. We look forward to seeing you back!!

8:00 Redeemer Alumni Golf Tournament

If you would like to provide a prize for the award table, please contact the Alumni Office

2:00 Awards reception at the college

2:30 Bus ride to the "Old Country"

Take a ride back in time as we tour the Beach Strip, Quigly Rd, Ontario St., Francis Rd, etc.

4:00 Meet the president

Dr. Cooper joins alumni for a "State of the College" address; a Q&A period to follow

5:00 Annual General Meeting

The Alumni Board conducts its business--your participation is vital

6:00 Punch social

6:30 Banquet

A semi-formal dinner with classmates, friends, faculty

9:00 Coffeehouse

Students and alumni provide home-grown entertainment; call the Alumni Office if you would like to participate



Join in the reunion fun with the Class of 87.

God's plan at work

...continued from page 1

I work with. At Christian Horizons, I am amazed at how God has worked in my life to equip me for my task. The love He has given me for these wonderful individuals and how much love they have for me is just awesome. While working at Christian Horizons, I have discovered the meaning of the song "Open my eyes Lord, I want to see Jesus"--I only have to look around me and into the eyes of those I support to see the eyes of Jesus looking back at me.

I am humbled when I think of how God has worked so faithfully in my life--from my employment at Redeemer College to my service at Christian Horizons--to bring about His purpose and plan in the lives of myself and those I interact with. And yet, I am only one, a part of a grander scheme of things in the hands of the Master. At Redeemer College and at Christian Horizons, God has taught me the value of working with a dedicated team of people who together are committed to sharing His love in many ways to others. A Christian organization is not just a building with walls and rooms, it is a living, breathing family of believers coming together with all their strengths and resources and to be united under one commitment: to serve Christ.

To be part of such a Christian organization brings one into a closer fellowship with God and with other Christians. If one person can make a real difference, think about what a multitude of Christians serving faithfully and with integrity can do! If one person takes on power when he/she believes that faith is stronger than fear, think about what many working together can do! If one person shares the hope that ensures the future, think about the possibilities when a whole organization does! Our world, our country, our society, our community is better when individuals who are transformed by God's love feed the hungry, support the weak, educate the young, fight sin, make peace, and care for and value others.

The beauty of it all is that God is not only for us, but He has promised us that He will provide the plans, the tools, and the strength to help us make a difference. That difference begins with you and me, and the Christian organizations that we serve.

Alumni card key to benefits

There are many benefits to being an alumnus of Redeemer College (besides receiving a great education). As an alumnus, you are eligible for many of the same perks that you received as a student. Some of the privileges include:

- student rates for most on-campus cultural events
- borrowing privileges at the library
- free use of the athletic facilities
- reduced rate for on-campus rental housing during the summer

• Career Services, including resume development, vocational and interest tests, and placement file services (there is a nominal fee for some of these services).

Please show your alumni card when you are asking to take advantage of these benefits. If you need a new card to replace a lost card, or because your name has changed, they are available free of charge from the Alumni Office.

REDEEMER COLLEGE

ALUMNI

Membership Card

NAME **SAMPLE**

CLASS

Alumni Office - 777 Hwy 53, E., Ancaster, ON L9K 1J4 (905) 648-2131
 alumnioffice@redeemer.on.ca www.redeemer.on.ca

Free yearbooks!!

Recently, the Yearbook Office cleaned house. Hidden beneath the debris were extra copies of a number of yearbooks which are now available to anyone who would like one.

There are issues from the following years:

1982/83	1983/84	1984/85
1987/88	1988/89	1989/90
1990/91	1992/93	1994/95

If you would like a copy, they are available until August 1 on a first-come, first-served basis from the Alumni Office.

Alumni Association fetes graduands

The Class of 97 took a break from their studies on April 3 for an hour of fun, fellowship, and free food as the Alumni Association and the President's Office joined the soon-to-be alumni in celebrating their achievements. More than 85 members of the Class of 97 were joined by almost the entire Alumni Board for a dessert social just prior to evening classes. As part of this first "Graduand Social," the Alumni Association also provided a voucher for graduating students to see the Spring Drama Production *The Shunning*, directed by David Van Belle (93), at a reduced rate.

Dr. Cooper opened the evening by thanking the students for the contributions they made to the college during their stay at Redeemer. Whether it was in academics, athletics, the arts, or co-curriculars, each student has made an impression on Redeemer, and will be missed next year. Dr. Cooper also encouraged the graduands to continue to develop and use their gifts for service as they begin the next stage of their lives.

That next stage, according to Alumni

Board of Directors Vice-President Mark Mantel (89), will see their relationship to Redeemer change, but hopefully not severed. Mark pointed out that alumni play an important role in the governance of the college through its representation on Academic Council and the Board of Governors. Mark told the graduands that the college needs the unique insights that alumni are able to provide, and he hoped that they will continue to be involved with Redeemer. Mark and Alumni Affairs Coordinator Tim Wolfert (87) also took the opportunity to give a brief outline of some of the services that are available to alumni.

Both students and board members appreciated the chance to mingle and get to know each other a bit. Many students were surprised at just how active the Alumni Association is (a few even confessed to not knowing what an "alumni" is). For board members, it was a chance to meet the people they will be serving over the next few years. By increasing contact with soon-to-be-alumni, the board hopes to maintain its relevance to all sectors of the association.



Al (90) and Jeff (97) Bakker share some brotherly advice about which dessert to choose.



The Class of '97 mingles with members of the Alumni Board and faculty at grad social.

Alumni needed for BoG

In the Provincial Charter that mandates how Redeemer is governed, there is a provision that there be alumni representation on the college's Board of Governors. For the last six years, Helen Vreugdenhil has served that role with distinction, ensuring that the alumni voice is heard when the college makes its decisions. Now that her two terms are completed, the Alumni Board of Directors is seeking nominations from eligible alumni to take Helen's seat at the Board.

The Alumni Association presents its nominees to the Governor's Affairs Committee of the Board of Governors. The board approves the entire slate of nominees and the

college's membership votes for the candidate(s) at the Annual Membership Meeting in October. The Alumni Board invites nominees for this position. The college board meets three times per year, with some additional committee assignments. The alumni representative also sits on the Alumni Board of Directors, which meets four times per year.

Nominees need to be Canadian citizens, members of Redeemer College, and at least 25 years of age. Board terms are three years, with the possibility of a second term. If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself), or would like some more information, please contact the Alumni Office.

Appeal approaches target

The first Alumni Annual Appeal is well under way to meeting its goal of raising \$3000. As of May 22, 28 alumni have contributed over \$1,900 towards the purchase of new computers for the library. The Alumni Board is encouraged by the results so far.



Like many other private and public institutions, Redeemer has had to concentrate many of its resources in the last few years on balancing the budget. A successful alumni campaign will send a positive message to the college community in the midst of tight financial times.

The Alumni Board encourages alumni to respond to the appeal if they have not yet done so. It would be a wonderful way to announce that Redeemer's Alumni Association is ready to take on more of a pronounced role in the life of the college.

If you did not receive your appeal letter, or would like some more information, please contact the Alumni Office at the college.

PERSONAL TOUCH

► **Kevin (90) and Jacquie (Kodde, 91) DeRaaf** joyfully welcome Nicole Liana into their family, a sister for Brendan (4) and Lauren (3). Kevin & Jacquie continue their ministry in First CRC, Owen Sound and praise God for the blessings of their growing family. They live at 759 2nd Ave. W., Owen Sound, ON N4K 4M2 (519) 372-2580. Email: kderaaf@bmts.com

► **Peter (96) and Lisa (Numan, 95) Moelker** have been blessed with the birth of Nathan Jeremiah on February 12, 1997. Peter is attending Mid-America Reformed Seminary and Lisa has her hands full with Nathan! They live at 18707 Burnham Ave., Lansing, IL 60438 (708) 418-3689. Email: pmoelker@juno.com

► **Roger (92) and Deb Grootenboer** have recently celebrated the birth of Daniel Mark (March 1997), a brother for Ashley (6), Eric (4) and Kevin (2). Roger is currently completing his fifth year of teaching at Dundas Calvin Christian School. They live at 1440 Garth St., Unit 55, Hamilton, ON L9B 1R6 (905) 387-4982.

► **Suzanne van Arragon Spronk (86)** and her husband Wayne have moved to the "North Country" with their new son, Pascal, born in Utah November 19, 1996. They live at 9 Champlain St., Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518) 561-5440.

► **Robert (87) and Bettie (VanGils, 95) Kloet** are pleased to welcome Jessica Maria (born July 21, 1996) to their family. She was proud to attend her Dad's graduation on November 2, 1996 where he received his CMA (Certified Management Accountant) degree. Rob's new business, Kloet Management Services, looks forward to completing tax returns for his fellow alumni (personal and small business). They live at 179 Bond St. N., Hamilton, ON L8S 3W7 (905) 522-1616.

► **Paul (86) and Susan (82) Vanderkooy** --After teaching in the Christian School system for 10 years, Paul is now sitting on the other side of the desk! In August 1996, Paul, Susan and their children moved to Grand Rapids where Paul began studying at Calvin Seminary. Ryan (grade 5), Danielle (grade 3) and Sarah (grade 1) are adjusting well at Oakdale Christian School while Steven (age 4) is enjoying time at home (or wherever!) with Mom. They live at 900 Benjamin SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 (616) 245-3154.

► **Pete (93) and Sonja (Deelstra, 93) VanderHeide** celebrate the gift of a son, Jacob Christopher, born January 12, 1997. After

three years of teaching at Knox Christian School in Bowmanville, Pete now works as an OPP constable at the Kawartha detachment in Peterborough. Sonja is on maternity leave from her teaching position at Northumberland Christian School in Cobourg. They live at 232 Sutherland Cres., Cobourg, ON K9A 5L3 (905) 373-8374.

► **Pete (x96) and Diana (Mostert, 96) Scholtens** are going to have a very busy summer. After they get married (June 7), they are heading to Au Sable to do some lab assisting (Pete) and course taking (Diana). Then they are off to BC where Pete will be teaching high school in Langley. Diana plans to continue her art endeavours. They are looking forward to seeing the choir tour in BC in the spring of 1998. They live at 5076 219A Street, Langley, BC V3A 8P8.

LISTSERV --
Up and running

Alumni who have access to e-mail are invited to join in the discussion on the Alumni listserv. A number of former students have already logged on to participate in discussions on topics such as the "BCS Thing" and whether or not the college should put *Images* on-line.

Join this forum dedicated to former students. To subscribe, send a message to majordomo@redeemer.on.ca and leave the subject line **blank**. In the body, type **subscribe alumni**; you will receive further information shortly about how to participate in the discussion. We look forward to hearing from you!

Consider the lilies ...II by Diana Mostert

"CONSIDER THE LILIES...II" IS A SHOW OF WILDFLOWERS IN THE FORM OF WOODBLOCK PRINTS. THE WORKS CELEBRATE THE DIVERSITY AND BEAUTY OF CREATION AS WELL AS COMMEMORATE PAST MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

COME VISIT THE SHOW AT THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS IN THE MEZZANINE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING. THE SHOW OPENS THURS. JULY 3, 7:30-9:30 P.M. AND RUNS TILL JULY 25, 1997.



Royal Botanical Gardens

680 Plains Road W., Burlington (QEW to Hwy 403, exit Hwy 6 North)

NEWS OF INTEREST

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Do you want your address published? ☐ Yes ☐ No

News of Interest _____

